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bringing out many of these connections that are both ingenious and suggestive.

The style is distinctly philosophical and abounds in theoretical illustrations. The lack of homely and familiar examples together with the philosophic style, makes the book less readable than it otherwise would be. While generally the author's method is scientific, yet many of his propositions would be more convincing if based more upon concrete instances and less upon theoretical argument. It is clear throughout the book that the writer's viewpoint is broadly social and antagonistic to individualistic conceptions. In attempting to cover such a wide field in one volume, many subjects of interest and importance have necessarily received but scant and fragmentary treatment. On the whole, however, the book furnishes a mass of philosophical and historical data dealing with the problems of legal theory, especially with regard to the legal systems of the Continent, and which is replete with observations which are original and significant.

ARNOLD B. HALL.

Popular Law Making. By FREDERIC JESUP STIMSON. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910. Pp. 390.)

The title of this work is rather misleading. One might very readily suppose that it was devoted to a consideration of direct legislation under the initiative and referendum. It is, however, a treatment of the whole field of statute law with some slight reference to legislative machinery. It is difficult to summarize its contents and this is perhaps the reason why the author omits a preface. He does, however, give a few pages at the close where he attempts to state his purpose. This seems to be to call attention to the enormous difference between the time when the common law was preëminent and one could become reasonably familiar with that portion which applied most directly to him and his occupation, and the present time when "all citizens, in their gravest and their least actions, also must look into the newspapers every morning to make sure that the whole law of life has not been changed for them by a statute passed over night."

The first part of the work is an historical examination of the more important English statutes down to about the time of Cromwell. It then takes up subsequent legislation under a topical arrangement. Under this it seems to have covered the most important tendencies

of modern legislation. A mere enumeration of the later chapter headings will show the diversity of subjects treated, covering as they do property rights, regulation of rates and prices, trusts and monopolies, corporations, labor laws, military affairs, political rights, personal rights, marriage and divorce, criminal law and the structure of government.

It is difficult to characterize this work. The treatment of the various subjects is, of course, entirely too brief to be of use to the student of any particular topic. For instance, a chapter covering twenty-two pages, has the entire treatment of legislation affecting women, including marriage and divorce. This is a subject to which an author could devote at least a substantial volume and, possibly, two or three volumes without incurring a danger of undue prolixity. The same is in general true of the other subjects treated in the book. Moreover, no one person can be expected to become familiar with the whole field of legislation so as to give a just estimate as to present tendencies.

One may also question whether the work does not contain too much for a strictly popular treatment. A book which begins with the Witenagemot and ends with the latest utterance of an American legislature on railways or pure food is not entirely adapted to popular reading. Undoubtedly it is the man unfamiliar with the scope of legislation that Mr. Stimson desires to reach. It is doubtful, however, whether his object has been accomplished because of the vast field which he has felt it necessary to cover.

Although the work seems to reach no particular audience and misses much of its usefulness because of this failure to adapt itself either to the specialist or the uninformed reader, yet there is much in it which is worthy of praise. Mr. Stimson has displayed great industry in the examination of statute law. He has set down a large amount of information regarding legislative tendencies which has heretofore not been available except in scattered works of reference. He has also given many suggestive observations upon the tendencies of modern legislation, even though one may disagree with him at many points. On the whole, the work is well worth a careful reading, although it falls short of the object for which it was attempted.

JOHN B. SANBORN.